



## PRESS RELEASE

**409th Contracting Support Brigade**

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### **409<sup>th</sup> Contracting Support Brigade Supports Continuing Mission In Horn Of Africa**

*Story by Rachel Clark, 409<sup>th</sup> Contracting Support Brigade*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany - Deploying to locations that cover a third of the globe, members of the 409<sup>th</sup> Contracting Support Brigade regularly find themselves supporting the U.S. Africa Command in remote parts of the African continent. In Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, as part of the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, the contracting teams play integral roles in acquisition support. AFRICOM's missions change as often as the climate on the second largest of the continents.

“The kind of support we provide is to deter war. We are out to build relationships with the locals and let them know we are



**Interviewing potential candidates:** ALI OUNE, Djibouti – In Djibouti, contracting officers from the Combined Joint Task Force –Horn of Africa contingency contracting office brief prospective applicants for security guard positions at the future site of the Ali Oune Health Clinic here.

a friendly force,” said Master Sgt. Andres Reta, 409<sup>th</sup> CSB. “We are key in the support of building, remodeling, reconstructing, and upgrading of a lot of schools, clinics, and wells.”

Upon arrival at Camp Lemonnier, 409th team members become part of a joint military contracting community and are individually assigned to support a diffident country in Africa. The team provides acquisition support that includes acquiring construction material, transportation, camp support, as well as humanitarian efforts.

“While working in the contracting office at Camp Lemonnier, our team got to write contracts for humanitarian efforts including veterinarian civic programs that helped vaccinate animals,” commented Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Portia Hall, 409<sup>th</sup> CSB. “I was humbled by some of the things I got to see, and to be able to support the mission in Africa was amazing, professionally and personally.”

The joint environment provides the contracting professionals the opportunity to learn new techniques and see how their peers are getting the job done.

“Navy supply corps officers don’t get to do contracting full time so this is a very unique opportunity,” said Navy Capt. Scott Hawkins, the CJTF-HOA chief of contracts. “This is great experience, and it’s so interesting to be able to see how other service members are doing contracting.”

The team also works on humanitarian projects that support the efforts toward building a nation.

(Story and Photo’s Courtesy of 409th Contracting Support Brigade)

